

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, and 5-7, as being anticipated by Michelson ('702). Claims 4 and 8 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over '702 in view of Sevrain, et al. ('244).

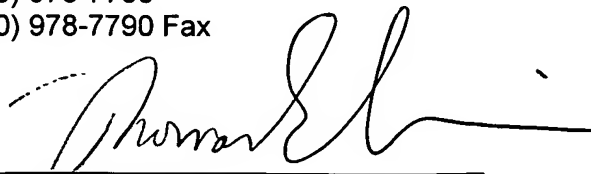
The Applicant would point out that nothing in the prior art teaches the use of opposite direction threads as is now clearly delineated in amended Claims 1 and 5. Further, original Claim 7 should have been allowed if rewritten in independent form. This has been done by combining original Claim 5 with Claim 7, resulting in allowable amended Claim 7. Dependent Claims 2, 3, 4, and 8 depend from allowable claims and should be allowed.

The present invention discloses a self-locking fastener system with a polyaxis capability. The threaded direction (20 or 20A) of the screw (18 or 18A) is opposite the thread direction (28 or 28A) of the collar (16 or 16A); thus, if the screw begins to back off, the head is urged against the inner wall of the collar and the collar is tightened rather than loosened.

Therefore, the present invention is distinguishable and patentable over the prior art. The Applicant asks the Examiner to reconsider the amended claims and issue a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: FEB. 20, 2007
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